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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

29 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationDocument No. 001NO CHANGE in Class. ☐☒ DECLASSIFIED

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Date: 15/2/78 By: 023Summary

ROK forces made limited gains in the north and east sectors. While the broad center front was quiet, the south sector was subjected to almost continuous small-unit probing attacks. UN naval units fired close support missions in the Pohang area, while aircraft from two carriers attacked targets along the Korean east coast. Air action continued in close support of ground troops, while B-29's hit the marshalling yards in the North Korean east coast city of Chongjin.

South Sector

The US 25th Division has been subjected to almost continuous small-unit attacks during the past few days by the North Korean 6th Division. The Northern 7th Division, tentatively identified in this region, is believed to consist of only one regiment. Continuous movement of troops and vehicles in this area, however, may presage renewal of a major offensive toward Masan.

Center Sector

Action along the Nakdong river was limited to patrolling.

North Sector

The ROK 6th Division, forced back below Uihung during the last few days, has reportedly regained this lost ground. Although the Northern 15th Division has been tentatively identified in this area, the enemy will probably deploy its main forces elsewhere while maintaining pressure in this sector.

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East Sector

Reports indicate that the ROK Capital Division has succeeded in retaking the town of Kigye. Pressure on the ROK 3rd Division, north of Pohang, appears to have been eased.

Navy

Aircraft from two US carriers attacked shipping, railroad equipment, supply dumps, and bridges along the North Korean east coast. Patrolling of the Korean east and west coasts continued. Naval units in the Pohang area fired close support missions for ROK ground units.

Air

Although the majority of the nearly 600 sorties flown were in support of ground troops and in interdiction of lines of communication, B-29's hit the rail marshalling yards in the North Korean east coast city of Chongjin. The target was 1,000 railroad cars concentrated in the yards; excellent results have been reported.

II General Situation

Shin Sung Mo, Prime Minister and Defense Minister of the ROK, has informed the press that the government has begun a manpower drive to reinforce existing South Korean divisions and to build up mountain battalions to hunt down guerrillas. Conscripts will be drawn mainly from the estimated 250,000 men of military age among the refugees who fled southward ahead of the Communist advance.

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